Ports-hinterland connectivity

2671. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to create better connectivity between ports and hinterlands to enhance the capacity of ports;

(b) if so, what would be the total enhanced capacity of major and minor ports by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) to achieve the said capacities how much investment has to be made and how would these be financed;

(d) the names of all major/minor prots that would be covered under the envisages planning; and

(e) the highways in kms. that would be built as part of the connecting projects?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) According to the projections made by the . Working Group on Ports for Eleventh Plan, the 12 major, ports of Kolkata, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Ennore, Chennai, Tuticorin, Cochin, New Mangalore, Mormugao, Mumbai, Jawaharial Nehru Port and Kandla should achieve an annual capacity of 1001.80 MT by the end of Eleventh Plan period with *an* investment of Rs. 55,401.56 crores including private sector investment of Rs. 36,868.24 crores.

Responsibility for development of non-major ports, vests with the State Government concerned.

Our aim is to achieve 1.5 billion tonnes annual capacity in both major and non-major ports at the end of the Eleventh Plan.

(e) Projects for augmentation of National Highways providing connectivity to ports, aggregating 851.78 kms. are under various stages of implementation by the National Highways Authority of India.

Construction of NH-24

2672. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had started construction work of the NH-24 (Delhi-Meerut-Kotdwar);